



Lawrence Aviation Industries

Port Jefferson Station, NY - EPA Region II



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The Lawrence Aviation Industries (LAI) site is located in the Village of Port Jefferson Station, Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk County, New York. LAI was a manufacturer of titanium sheeting for the aeronautics industry. The company was founded at its present location in 1959. The property was previously a turkey farm owned by LAI's corporate predecessor, Ledkote Products Company of New York. In 1991, LAI indicated that its titanium mill was operating in a 200,000-square-foot plant complex on a 160-acre site. The Site is located on a topographic high point and is surrounded by residential areas and a few commercial properties. The Port Jefferson Harbor, an outlet to the Long Island Sound, lies approximately one mile to the north, in the direction of groundwater flow. Groundwater from the underlying Upper Glacial/Magothy aquifer is the only source of drinking water in the site vicinity. There are 47 public supply wells, serving an estimated 120,500 people within 4 miles of the site.

Past disposal practices and releases from leaking drums at LAI have resulted in numerous violations cited by both Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). In 1980, the company crushed more than 1600 drums, allowing the liquid contents to spill on unprotected soil. The drums contained trichloroethylene (TCE), tetrachloroethylene (PCE), spent acid sump sludges, salt wastes, hydraulic oils, hydrofluoric acid, nitric acids, and other plant wastes. SCDHS also observed numerous discharges from various plant activities to the ground surface and to two unlined lagoons.

Groundwater contaminated with TCE, PCE, nitrates, and fluoride has been detected in monitoring wells installed on the perimeter of the Site property by NYSDEC, as well as in nearby residential wells. Potential drinking water threats posed to residents have been addressed by connecting the affected homes to the public water supply. Annual testing of the public supply wells show them to be in compliance with State and Federal standards. Due to shallow groundwater in residential areas over the TCE plume, vapor intrusion is a potential threat. EPA has initiated evaluation of this exposure pathway.

Vapor Mitigation Systems (VMS) were installed to alleviate the vapor intrusion threat in two residences in March 2008 and one residence in July 2008 in Port Jefferson, NY. An additional VMS system will be installed in the Earl L. Vandermeulen High School wrestling room in Port Jefferson, NY in April 2008.

Site assessments conducted by EPA have identified an area on-site of contaminated Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs). In January 2009, EPA began remove the soils contaminated with PCBs.

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